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### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

#### Listing of Claims

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** An information processing method for storing a plurality of files having both binary data and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, comprising:

an allocation step of allocating a first block storage area ~~for that is a~~ continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files on said storage medium;

a first storage step of ~~allocating a metadata storage area for storing said metadata from said first storage area allocated at said allocation step, and~~ storing said metadata of the plurality of files into said ~~metadata~~ the first block storage area;

a second storage step of storing binary data of the plurality of files related to said metadata into a second block storage area other than said first block storage area on said storage medium; and

a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata of the plurality of files stored in said first block storage area with said binary data of the plurality of files stored in said second block storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said first block storage area,

wherein at third storage step, each of said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area where said corresponding metadata is stored, ~~and~~

~~wherein said metadata and said binary data are recorded as a single file.~~

**Claim 2 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said adjacent area is a

sector next to the area where said metadata is stored.

**Claim 3 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein at said third storage step, an adjacent area having a fixed length is allocated, and said link information is stored in the area.

**Claim 4 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said link information is described as a path and a file name of said binary data.

**Claim 5 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said link information is a head sector number of an area where said binary data is stored.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, further comprising a registration step of registering link information, that links said metadata stored in said first storage area with said binary data stored in said second storage area, in a database.

**Claims 7-8 (Cancelled).**

**Claim 9 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein at said allocation step, said metadata storage area is allocated in a portion in said storage medium that can be accessed at a high speed.

**Claim 10 (Original):** The method according to claim 9, wherein said storage medium is a magneto-optic disk, and wherein an inner radial side of said magneto-optic disk is allocated as said metadata storage area.

**Claim 11 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein at said allocation step, said metadata storage area is allocated by generating an area file having a size the same as that of said metadata storage area and holding the file on said storage medium.

**Claim 12 (Original):** The method according to claim 11, wherein at said first storage step, said area file is deleted, then said metadata is stored from a start position of an area

where said file has been stored, and a remaining area of said metadata storage area following storage of said metadata is held again as an area file.

**Claim 13 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein at said allocation step, said first storage area is allocated in a directory where said binary data is stored.

**Claim 14 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein at said allocation step, said first storage area is allocated in a directory different from a directory where said binary data is stored.

**Claim 15 (Original):** The method according to claim 13, wherein at said first storage step, an area necessary for storing each metadata is located in the first storage area allocated at said allocation step.

**Claim 16 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata includes description of information specifying related binary data.

**Claim 17 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata is described in a predetermined data description language.

**Claim 18 (Original):** The method according to claim 17, wherein said predetermined data description language is any one of XML (Extensible Markup Language), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) and TIFF (Tagged Image File Format).

**Claim 19 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata abides by the DIG35 standard.

**Claim 20 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said binary data is at least one of still image data, video data, sound data and music data.

**Claim 21 (Original):** The method according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is any one of a magneto-optic disk, a floppy disk, a memory card and a hard disk.

**Claim 22 (Currently Amended):** An information processing apparatus for storing a plurality of files having both binary data and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, comprising:

allocation means for allocating a first block storage area ~~for that is a~~ continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files on said storage medium;

first storage means for ~~allocating a metadata storage area for storing said metadata from said first storage area allocated by said allocation means, and~~ storing said metadata of the plurality of files into said ~~metadata~~ the first block storage area;

second storage means storing binary data of the plurality of files related to said metadata into a second block storage area other than said first block storage area on said storage medium; and

third storage means for storing link information that links said metadata of the plurality of files stored in said first block storage area with each of said binary data of the plurality of files stored in said second block storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said first block storage area,

wherein said third storage means stores each of said link information into an area adjacent to an area where said corresponding metadata is stored, ~~and~~

~~wherein said metadata and said binary data are recorded as a single file.~~

**Claim 23 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said adjacent area is a sector next to the area where said metadata is stored.

**Claim 24 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said third storage means allocates an adjacent area having a fixed length, and stores said link information in the area.

**Claim 25 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said link information is described as a path and a file name of said binary data.

**Claim 26 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said link information is a head sector number of an area where said binary data is stored.

**Claim 27 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising registration means for registering link information, that links said metadata stored in said first storage area with said binary data stored in said second storage area, in a database.

**Claims 28-29 (Cancelled).**

**Claim 30 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said metadata storage area in a portion in said storage medium that can be accessed at a high speed.

**Claim 31 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said storage medium is a magneto-optic disk, and wherein an inner radial side of said magneto-optic disk is allocated as said metadata storage area.

**Claim 32 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said metadata storage area by generating an area file having a size the same as that of said metadata storage area and holding the file on said storage medium.

**Claim 33 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said first storage means deletes said area file, then stores said metadata from a start position of an area where said file has been stored, and again holds a remaining area of said metadata storage area following storage of said metadata as an area file.

**Claim 34 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said first storage area in a directory where said binary data is stored.

**Claim 35 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said first storage area in a directory different from a directory where said binary data is stored.

**Claim 36 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said first storage means allocates an area necessary for storage to each metadata in the first storage area allocated by said allocation means.

**Claim 37 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said metadata includes description of information specifying related binary data.

**Claim 38 (Original):** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said metadata is described in a predetermined data description language.

**Claim 39 (Currently Amended):** A control program for a computer to execute an information processing method for storing a plurality of files having both binary data and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, wherein said information processing method comprising:

an allocation step of allocating a first block storage area ~~for~~ that is a continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files on said storage medium;

a first storage step ~~of allocating a metadata storage area for storing said metadata from said first storage area allocated at said allocation step, and~~ storing said metadata of the plurality of files into ~~said metadata~~ the first block storage area;

a second storage step of storing binary data of the plurality of files related to said metadata into a second block storage area other than said first block storage area on said storage medium; and

a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata of the plurality of files stored in said first block storage area with said binary data of the plurality of files stored in said second block storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said first block storage area,

wherein at third storage step, each of said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area where said corresponding metadata is stored, and

~~wherein said metadata and said binary data are recorded as a single file.~~

**Claim 40 (Currently Amended):** A storage medium holding a control program for a computer to execute an information processing method for storing a plurality of files having both binary data and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, wherein said information processing method comprising:

an allocation step of allocating a first block storage area ~~for that is a continuous area capable of storing~~ metadata of the plurality of files on said storage medium;

a first storage step ~~of allocating a metadata storage area for storing said metadata from said first storage area allocated at said allocation step, and~~ storing said metadata of the plurality of files into said ~~metadata~~ the first block storage area;

a second storage step of storing binary data of the plurality of files related to said metadata into a second block storage area other than said first block storage area on said storage medium; and

a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata of the plurality of files stored in said first block storage area with said binary data of the plurality of files stored in said second block storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said first block storage area,



wherein at third storage step, each of said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area where said corresponding metadata is stored; and

~~wherein said metadata and said binary data are recorded as a single file.~~

**Claim 41** (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the metadata storage area is a continuous area.

**Claim 42** (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the metadata storage area is a continuous area.

**Claim 43** (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for storing a plurality of files having both binary data and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, comprising:

an allocation unit configured to allocate a first block storage area ~~for that is a~~ continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files on said storage medium;

a first storage unit configured to ~~allocate a metadata storage area for storing~~ ~~said metadata from said first storage area allocated by said allocation unit, and store said~~ metadata of the plurality of files into ~~said metadata~~ the first block storage area;

a second storage unit configured to store binary data of the plurality of files related to said metadata into a second block storage area other than said first block storage area on said storage medium; and

a third storage unit adapted to store link information that links said metadata of the plurality of files stored in said first block storage area with each of said binary data of the plurality of files stored in said second block storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said first block storage area,

wherein said third storage unit stores each of said link information into an area adjacent to where said corresponding metadata is stored, and  
~~wherein said metadata and said binary data are recorded as a single file.~~